

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-14 PM-07 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01

DRC-01 /163 W

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R 090950Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2221

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS JAKARTA 5707

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM ON
NAVAL FORCES IN INDIAN OCEAN

1. SINGAPORE'S FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM TOLD PRESS
CONFERENCE IN JAKARTA MAY 9 THAT WHILE GOAL OF ELIMINA-
TING GREAT POWERS' NAVAL FORCES FROM INDIAN OCEAN IS
WORTHY OBJECTIVE, IT IS UNREALISTIC IN VIEW OF RELATIVE
WEAKNESS OF NEIGHBORING STATES AND DESIRE OF SUPER-POWERS
TO RETAIN PRESENCE THERE.

2. RAJARATNAM, WHO IS IN JAKARTA FOR SEVENTH ASEAN
MINISTERIAL MEETING, DENIED THAT SINGAPORE IS OPPOSED
TO THE GOAL OF AN INDIAN OCEAN "ZONE OF PEACE AND
TRANQUILITY." BUT HE STRESSED THAT UNTIL WORLD RENOUNCES
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ARMED FORCES, ONLY PRACTICAL WAY TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND

STABILITY IN INDIAN OCEAN IS BALANCE OF FORCES THERE,
WHICH IS BEST ASSURED BY INVITING FORCES OF ALL GREAT
POWERS TO ENTER AREA.

3. NONE OF THE NEIGHBORING STATES IN REGION CAN PREVENT
ENTRY OF GREAT POWERS' NAVAL FORCES INTO INDIAN OCEAN, HE
SAID. YET IF SOME OF THE NAVAL FORCES WITHDREW FROM THE
OCEAN VOLUNTARILY, IT IS CONCEIVABLE AREA WOULD BE LEFT
TO THE DOMINATION OF A SINGLE POWER.

4. HE ADDED THAT NEIGHBORING STATES COULD HELP SUPER-
VISE A BALANCE OF POWER IF THE GREAT POWERS WILL COOPERATE.
FOR EXAMPLE HE SAID THE NUMBER OF SOVIET SHIPS IN THE AREA
CAN BE OBTAINED FROM AMERICAN EMBASSIES, WHILE THE
STRENGTH OF AMERICAN FORCES IN THE AREA IS AVAILABLE FROM
SOVIET EMBASSIES.
NEWSOM

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To: STATE
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